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To: Assistant Commissioner of Patents Date: July 14, 2005
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Fax No.: (703) 746-4000 Pages: 7, including this cover sheet

From: Pasquale Musacchio, Intellectual Property Counsel
Siemens IPD

Subject: Application No. 10/676,458

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Attached please find:

- 1.) Issue Fee Payment: PART B – FEE (S) TRANSMITTAL
- 2.) Change of Correspondence Address
- 3.) Comments on Statements of Reasons for Allowance

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.8

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Ruth Rocky

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Cox et al.
Serial Number: 10/676,458
Filed: September 30, 2003
Examiner: Ortiz, Angela Y.
Group Art Unit: 1732
Title: POTTING METHOD

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.8

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth in the Notice of Allowability mailed April 18, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks.

The Examiner's statement regarding reasons for allowance makes a characterization as to the primary reasons for allowance. It is believed that such a characterization of the claims does not properly represent Applicant's claimed invention. As such, Applicant does not agree with the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

With respect to independent claim 4, Applicant asserts that this claim and any claims dependent therefrom are allowable since, as previously set forth, Applicant's invention is directed to:



"A method of forming a pot for an array of hollow fibre membranes, each fibre membrane comprising an end, the method comprising:

placing the ends of the fibre membranes in a mould;

forming a first layer of a curable resin material in a non-cured state around the ends, wherein the step of forming a first layer of a curable resin material further comprises monitoring a curing process of the first layer to determine an optimal time at which to apply a second layer to the first layer;

applying a second layer of a polyurethane resin material to the first layer prior to full curing of the first layer, wherein the polyurethane resin material is chemically reactive with the curable resin material to form an adhesive bond between the first layer and the second layer, and wherein a fully cured polyurethane resin material is of a higher flexibility than a fully cured curable resin material;

at least partially curing the first layer and the second layer, such that a pot is formed; and

removing the pot from the mould."

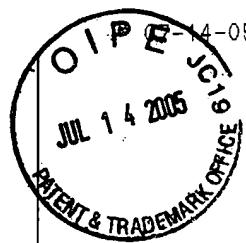
With respect to independent claim 7, Applicant asserts that this claim and any claims dependent therefrom are allowable since, as previously set forth, Applicant's invention is directed to:

"A method of forming a pot for an array of hollow fibre membranes, each fibre membrane comprising an end, the method comprising:

placing the ends of the fibre membranes in a mould;

providing a potting sleeve within the mould to receive a first layer and a second layer, wherein the potting sleeve comprises adhesion means, wherein the adhesion means assist in adhesion of at least one of the curable resin material and the polyurethane resin material to the potting sleeve;

forming a first layer of a curable resin material in a non-cured state around the ends;



applying a second layer of a polyurethane resin material to the first layer prior to full curing of the first layer, wherein the polyurethane resin material is chemically reactive with the curable resin material to form an adhesive bond between the first layer and the second layer, and wherein a fully cured polyurethane resin material is of a higher flexibility than a fully cured curable resin material;

at least partially curing the first layer and the second layer, such that a pot is formed; and

removing the pot from the mould.

With respect to independent claim 21, Applicant asserts that this claim and any claims dependent therefrom are allowable since, as previously set forth, Applicant's invention is directed to:

"A method of forming a pot for an array of hollow fibre membranes, each fibre membrane comprising an end, the method comprising:

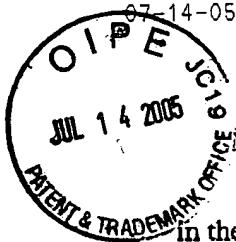
placing the ends of the fibre membranes in a mould;

forming a first layer of a curable resin material in a non-cured state around the ends, wherein the curable resin material comprises epoxy groups;

applying a second layer of a polyurethane resin material comprising amine groups or amide groups to the first layer prior to full curing of the first layer, wherein the amine groups or amide groups of the polyurethane resin material chemically react with the epoxy groups of the curable resin material to form an adhesive bond between the first layer and the second layer, and wherein a fully cured polyurethane resin material is of a higher flexibility than a fully cured curable resin material;

at least partially curing the first layer and the second layer, such that a pot is formed; and

removing the pot from the mould."



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Applicant does not acquiesce that patentability resides in the characterization expressed in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Pasquale Musacchio

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Dated: JULY 14, 2005

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